

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01020 281006Z

21

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3632

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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SUBJ: SINO-JAPANESE FISHERY RELATIONS

SUMMARY: A PRIVATE JAPANESE FISHERY DELEGATION ARRIVED IN PEKING JANUARY 14 PROBABLY TO DISCUSS JAPANESE FISHERMEN'S PROBLEMS WITH PEKING'S PROPOSED TERMS OF A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT FISHERY AGREEMENT. DUE TO THESE PROBLEMS AND TO LAW OF THE SEA CONSIDERATIONS, THE OUTCOME OF THE NEXT ROUND OF FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS IS LIKELY TO BE A CONTINUED DEADLOCK AND THEREFORE AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING PRIVATE FISHERY ARRANGEMENT UNTIL 1976. PRC CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE JAPANESE OVERFISHING IN THE COASTAL WATERS COVERED BY THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN A FACTOR IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINO-JAPANESE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE. END SUMMARY

SINO-JAPANESE FISHERY RELATIONS

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PAGE 02 HONG K 01020 281006Z

1. THE JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP FISHERY DELEGATION HEADED BY KITARO TOKASHIMA, PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN JAPAN-CHINA FISHERIES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION AND WITH KAMEKICHI KISHI, COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE PELAGIC DRAG NET FISHERY ASSOCIATION, AS DEPUTY LEADER ARRIVED IN PEKING ON JANUARY 14 ON THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE CHINA FISHERY ASSOCIATION (NCNA). THE VISIT'S PURPOSE IS PROBABLY TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE SINO-JAPANESE PRIVATE FISHING ARRANGEMENT COVERING THE YELLOW AND EAST CHINA SEAS WHICH EXPIRES ON JUNE 22, 1975.

2. A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT FISHERY AGREEMENT WAS CALLED FOR IN THE 1972 SINO-JAPANESE COMMUNIQUE, ALONG WITH ONES ON TRADE, MARINE TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION, NOW ALL CONCLUDED. SIGNING OF THE FISHERY AGREEMENT, IN THE GOJ'S PREVIOUS VIEW, HAD TO PRECEDE CONCLUSION OF A SINO-JAPANESE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. HOWEVER, ACCORD ON THE FISHERY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN STALLED OVER PRC DEMANDS FOR A 200 MILE COAST FISHING LIMIT, LIMITATIONS ON THE JAPANESE CATCH, AND DENIAL OF ACCESS TO CHINESE "MILITARY ZONES." OBVIOUSLY, THESE DEMANDS ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS HEADED BY MESSRS. TOKASHIMA AND KISHI.

3. AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER ABE SAID IN SHIMONOSEKI CITY ON JANUARY 14 THAT HE WANTS TO RESUME THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE OUTCOME OF THE TOKUSHIMA DELEGATION'S VISIT IS KNOWN. THE GOJ POLICY IS TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT BASICALLY FOLLOWING THE TERMS OF THE "PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT," WHICH WOULD AVOID INCLUSION OF THE PRC DEMANDS (YAMATO SHIMBUN).

4. HOWEVER, BOTH THE PRC AND GOJ NOW SEEM CONTENT TO WAIT FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN SUMMER 1975. THUS, THE OUTCOME OF THE NEXT ROUND OF FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS IS LIKELY TO BE A CONTINUED DEADLOCK AND THEREFORE AN EXTENSION OF THE PRIVATE FISHERY ARRANGEMENT UNTIL JUNE 1976.

5. THE PRC DEMAND FOR CATCH LIMITATIONS MIGHT STEM FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 01020 281006Z

CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE JAPANESE OVERFISHING AND CONSEQUENT FISHERIES DEPLETION. THIS CONCERN MAY BE BEHIND ITS AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINO-JAPANESE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. PRC OCEAN FISHING IS NOT ADVANCED, COMPARED TO ITS RIVER AND LAKE FISHING, ACCORDING TO TOKYO FISHERIES COLLEGE PRESIDENT, TAKAYOSHI SASAKI. HE LED IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1974 A SEA DEVELOPMENT GROUP -- THE FIRST

SUCH DELEGATION RECEIVED BY THE PRC -- COMPRISED OF ACADEMIC
OCEANOGRAPHERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERESTED PRIVATE
JAPANESE FIRMS SUCH AS MITSUI AND OBAYASHI-GUMI. THOUGH
THE JAPANESE DELEGATION INTENDED TO PROPOSE TECHNICAL
COOPERATION, THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE WE KNOW OF WHERE
A JOINT INSTITUTE WILL BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN CHINESE AND
FOREIGN INTERESTS. THE DELEGATION ALSO INTENDED TO
INVITE PRC PARTICIPATION IN THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEA TO BE HELD IN
TOKYO FROM AUGUST 5 OF THIS YEAR, BUT NO RESPONSE HAS
YET BEEN REPORTED. (KYODO).
CROSS

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